OCR A Level History 2025/2026

Summer Transition Work

OCR A-Level History: Course Overview

Exam Board: OCR

Specification Code: H505

This course is divided into three examined units and one coursework component. It develops a deep understanding of key historical periods, the ability to critically assess sources and interpretations, and strong analytical writing skills.

# **Unit 1: Britain 1930–1997 (Y113)**

Assessment: 1 hour 30 written exam | 25% of A-level

Key Topics:

* Churchill’s leadership and diplomacy
* Post-war consensus and politics
* Economic challenges and industrial relations
* Social and cultural changes
* Britain’s global position: Empire, Cold War, EEC

# **Unit 2: The French Revolution and the Rule of Napoleon 1774–1815 (Y213)**

Assessment: 1 hour written exam | 15% of A-level

Key Topics:

* Causes of the French Revolution: Enlightenment, economic crisis, absolutism
* Key events: Bastille, Reign of Terror, Robespierre’s fall
* Napoleon’s rise and domestic reforms
* Military campaigns and the expansion of empire
* Legacy of the Revolution and Napoleon

# **Unit 3: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors 1485–1603 (Y319)**

Assessment: 2 hours 30 minutes written exam | 40% of A-level

Key Topics:

* Causes of rebellion: religion, politics, economy
* Major rebellions: Yorkshire, Cornish, Pilgrimage of Grace, Western, Kett’s, Wyatt’s, Northern Earls, Tyrone’s
* Government responses and use of power
* Role of monarchy and nobility in unrest
* Historical interpretations and thematic analysis

# **Coursework (NEA)**

Assessment: 3,000–4,000 word independently researched essay | 20% of A-level

This component involves an in-depth enquiry into a historical topic of the student’s choice, using primary and secondary sources to evaluate different interpretations and construct a well-supported argument.

| **Unit** | **Exam Length** | **Assessment Style** | **Weighting** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Y113 – Britain 1930–97 | 1 hour 30 mins | Source analysis + essay | 25% |
| Y213 – French Revolution & Napoleon | 1 hour | Breadth knowledge | 15% |
| Y319 – Rebellion & Disorder under the Tudors | 2 hours 30 mins | Thematic essays + interpretation | 40% |
| NEA (Coursework) | c. 3,000–4,000 words | Independently researched historical enquiry | 20% |

# **Skills Developed**

* - Critical analysis of historical events and processes
* - Evaluation of primary sources and historical interpretations
* - Structured argument and persuasive essay writing
* - Independent research and time management
* - Communication of complex ideas clearly and effectively

# **Recommended Reading List**

**French Revolution and Napoleon:**

* - Doyle, William. "The Oxford History of the French Revolution"
* - McPhee, Peter. "Liberty or Death: The French Revolution"
* - Roberts, Andrew. "Napoleon the Great"

**Britain 1930–1997:**

* - Addison, Paul. "The Road to 1945"
* - Marr, Andrew. "A History of Modern Britain"
* - Campbell, John. "Margaret Thatcher: The Grocer’s Daughter"

**Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors:**

* - Guy, John. "Tudor England"
* - Fletcher, Anthony. "Tudor Rebellions"
* - Loades, David. "The Tudors: History of a Dynasty"

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### **OCR History Unit 3 – Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors:: Knowledge Homework Task**

#### **Title: Key elements of the Tudors**

Research the key characters below from the Tudor course to give you an overview of the unit and the key figures involved.

| **Who**  | **Job/title** | **Rebellion(s)** | **Fate** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Michael Joseph An Gof |  |  |  |
| Robert Aske |  |  |  |
| John Touchet |  |  |  |
| John Russell |  |  |  |
| Sir Francis Bigod |  |  |  |
| William Body |  |  |  |
| Robert Bowes |  |  |  |
| Sir Peter Carew |  |  |  |
| William Cecil |  |  |  |
| Thomas Cranmer |  |  |  |
| Sir James Croft |  |  |  |
| Thomas, Lord Darcy of Templehurst |  |  |  |
| Edward Stanley |  |  |  |
| Edward VI |  |  |  |
| Elizabeth I |  |  |  |
| Robert Deveroux |  |  |  |
| Thomas Cromwell |  |  |  |
| Thomas Flamank |  |  |  |
| Lady Jane Grey |  |  |  |
| Henry VII |  |  |  |
| Henry VIII |  |  |  |
| Robert Kett |  |  |  |
| Mary I |  |  |  |
| Mary, Queen of Scots |  |  |  |
| Nicholas Melton |  |  |  |
| Thomas Howard |  |  |  |
| Thomas Howard |  |  |  |
| Thomas Howard |  |  |  |
| William Parr |  |  |  |
| Henry Percy |  |  |  |
| Henry Percy |  |  |  |
| John Dudley |  |  |  |
| Thomas Percy |  |  |  |
| Phillip II |  |  |  |
| Lambert Simnel |  |  |  |
| Edward Seymour |  |  |  |
| Charles Brandon |  |  |  |
| Henry Grey |  |  |  |
| Thomas Radcliffe |  |  |  |
| Hugh O’Neill |  |  |  |
| Perkin Warbeck |  |  |  |
| John Dudley |  |  |  |
| Charles Neville |  |  |  |
| Thomas Wolsey |  |  |  |
| Thomas Wyatt |  |  |  |

### **OCR History Unit 1 – Britain 1930–1997: Knowledge Homework Task**

#### **Title: Setting the Scene – Britain in the 20th Century**

**Objective:** To build background knowledge of major events, people, and changes in Britain between 1930 and 1997.

**Instructions:**

 Complete the following tasks using your own knowledge, research from a textbook or BBC Bitesize, or by interviewing a family member or trusted adult. Write your answers clearly and keep them in your folder for the first week in September.

### **1. Create a Simple Timeline (10 mins)**

Mark these key events on a timeline of Britain from 1930 to 1997:

* The Great Depression
* World War II
* Labour’s 1945 victory
* The NHS is created (1948)
* Suez Crisis
* The 'Swinging Sixties'
* Thatcher becomes Prime Minister
* Miners’ Strike (1984–5)
* Fall of Thatcher
* New Labour wins 1997

You can draw this by hand or create it digitally.

### **2. Short Research Questions (15–20 mins)**

Write 2–3 sentences on each:

1. What was the Great Depression, and how did it affect people in Britain?
2. Who was Winston Churchill and why is he significant?
3. What was the purpose of the welfare state after World War II?
4. Who was Margaret Thatcher and what was controversial about her leadership?
5. What does the term “post-war consensus” mean?

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### **OCR History Unit 2 – The French Revolution and Napoleon: Prior Knowledge Homework**

#### **Title: France on the Edge – Preparing for Revolution (1775–1815)**

**Objective: To introduce the key themes and background to the French Revolution and Napoleon’s rise to power.**

### **1. Timeline Task (10 mins)**

**Add the following events to a blank timeline (1770–1815). Leave space to add more in class:**

* Louis XVI becomes king
* The American Revolution begins
* The Storming of the Bastille
* The execution of Louis XVI
* The rise of Napoleon Bonaparte
* The Battle of Waterloo

### **2. Quick Fire Research (15–20 mins)**

**Write 2–3 sentences on each of the following:**

1. What was the Ancien Régime?
2. Who were the First, Second, and Third Estates in France?
3. What kind of king was Louis XVI?
4. How did the American Revolution influence France?
5. What problems did France face by the 1780s?

###  **3. Keyword Match-Up**

**Match each keyword with its correct definition. You can research if you’re unsure:**

| Keyword | Definition (Write A–E next to each word) |
| --- | --- |
| Estate | A. A prison stormed in 1789 seen as the start of the Revolution |
| Absolutism | B. The belief that a monarch holds total power from God |
| Bastille | C. A class or social group in pre-revolutionary France |
| Revolution | D. A sudden and significant political change |
| Enlightenment | E. A movement encouraging reason, science, and questioning of authority |